



**Meeting Minutes**  
**BSD – Sehome High School Advisory Committee**  
**May 10, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Allen, Jeff	Keck, Kacy
Anderson, Mike	Kuss-Cybula, Michelle
Ashby, Melissa	Peterson, Mark
Carroll, Jeremy	Rowe, Tanya
Clarke, Steve	Schenck, Corrine
Cowan, Ron	Schubeck, Grace
Criez, Kevin	Smith, Dana
Cushman, Colin	Snyder, Craig
Denton, Julie	Stinson, Jonah
Dominguez, Kristi	Tetrick, Jeff
Ham, Zach	Trulock, Oliver
Hankinson, Amy	Williams, Rachel
Hasenjaeger, Kathy	Zender, Martha
Jewitt, Tim	
Johnson, Kevin	

**Members Absent:**

Brawley, Jacqueline  
Dalton, Mark  
Diehl, Gus  
Gazow, Kurt  
Knops, Gail  
Lawyer, Curtis

Michelle Kuss-Cybula welcomed the group to the meeting, and thanked the committee for their assistance and participation.

The minutes from the April 26, 2015 meeting were read and approved.

Michelle summarized the [red/yellow/green](#) exercise that the committee participated in at the last meeting. The task was to give Dykeman areas that were not yet 'green' and needed to be more defined. Overall the team felt positive with the project. There is still a concern regarding field space with softball and soccer fields overlapping. The consensus was that there needs to be two fields for these activities. Parking areas and traffic flow was another area that the committee thought needed some revision.

Preliminary plans were shared with the Sehome staff. They were excited about the plans presented. Staff discussed how the building operates. Currently the staff is separated, but the new school will house everyone in one building.

Michelle then provided an update on lockers. Not every student will have a locker. She has heard from a number of athletes and music students, that they need space for sports equipment and instruments. Ron Cowan stated that right now we are planning on approximately 600 lockers which is approximately half of the student body.

Zach Hamm then reviewed the site plan and summarized the feedback Dykeman received from the last meeting. He shared that they listened and understood the committee comments. The multi-use field was a concern, with softball and soccer sharing a field. In the revised plan, there are now two fields, one for each sport. Amy Hankinson questioned which fields are turf and which are grass. Zach replied all will be turf except the throw areas for track field events.

Parking and traffic flow was another area of concern. Heffron Transportation conducted a review last week and will provide their findings in a report to Dykeman. This will help with the parking count and where parking can be placed on the site.

There is a very clear way of travel with two access points to the main parking lot and one for the bus loop. The special education drop off is still in the front of the building as required. The architects are looking at additional striping in the bus area to possibly use it as overflow parking for after school event parking. There is the potential of providing two parent drop-off areas to eliminate congestion. Kathy Hasenjaeger asked how many parking spaces were allocated, and Zach replied 450-460. Heffron Transportation will be able to provide a better idea regarding the adequacy and need related to parking. Craig Snyder liked the idea of having plenty of parking particularly on very busy evenings with multiple events occurring at the school. Kevin Johnson stated that currently the parking lot is busy near the school, but not completely full. Colin added that the 550 spaces that we currently have are not all used at the same time as it's too far to walk. Rachel Williams liked that the parking didn't seem to dominate the site as much as it appeared to in previous versions of the plan.

A location for a greenhouse has been provided. It may be an alternate bid item for the project and space has been allocated for it. Bike racks are still located in the front of the school, and Dykeman is working to get it to the roof edge for coverage.

Ron informed the group that there are two portables currently on site. The cost to move them is approximately \$30,000.00. The decision has been made to keep the portables to be used for whatever purpose seems necessary, (ex: storage, additional classrooms, etc).

Rachel was concerned that the site plan appears crowded. Steve Clarke stated that there seems to be a nice buffer around the school, adding it looks like a lot on the plan but it's maximizing the area and feels like a good use of space. It feels open with all of the field space. Martha Zender echoed his comment, stating the fields around the school are nice.

Zach went through the evolution of the floor plan and the latest revisions. Kathy Hasengjaeger asked who is responsible to insure the building is ADA accessible. Tim Jewitt replied there are standards that the architects are required to meet. Ron added there is also a second check on being ADA accessible, as the city makes certain we are compliant in order to acquire a building permit.

Zach shared interior renderings, and guided the committee through the interior spaces. Areas that were highlighted from comments from the last meeting included railing detail, locker areas, breakout spaces and light wells into classrooms. The common area is open and light. Kacy Keck inquired if there were ramps or all elevators for ADA access. Zach stated that there is no ramp from the main level to the lower level but there is an elevator. Kathy Hasenjaeger asked if life skills have a direct emergency access to the outside. Zach stated yes, and that their exits come out on grade.

On the building's exterior Dykeman is exploring timeless materials, with perhaps brick on either end, and a different lighter material in the middle. On the south façade they are beginning to look at some sustainable features and providing some shading. The main hub and student hub will have a lot of glass. They are also looking at some paneling insets; all which will draw you into the main entry. Dykeman is still exploring signage for the main entrance.

Jonah inquired if the outdoor classroom was a patio. Tim answered it is still in development, but that there will probably be some fixed seating. The idea is that 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classes could also use this outdoor space.

Kathy Hasenjaeger stated the city is promoting neighborhoods to infill. She questioned if there was room on the site for an addition to the new school should there be an influx of students. Ron stated that the district's design standard for high schools is 1200 students. Currently we are planning on 1000 students when the school opens but the facility can accommodate 1200. We have some additional capacity with each of our high schools. Colin Cushman remarked that there is data indicating larger schools are not as nice as smaller schools. Mark Peterson also commented that the entire city, not just the south side area, is working to infill. There is less space available on the south side than on the north side of Bellingham. Ron added that in another 10-15 years if student population rises, we may need to consider building another high school. In the interim relief can be provided via boundary adjustments and by Options High School which is being built to accommodate 400 students.

Craig Snyder was still unsure of the orientation of the auditorium. Zach said that they will go through all of the fine details. Dana Smith was a little concerned that the student store is near the classroom space. Zach stated that the adjacency was something Dykeman would work on.

Michelle shared that in the coming weeks Dykeman will meet with staff to walk through the design features. They will meet with life skills, athletics, performing arts, etc.

Steve Clarke spoke to the group, questioning if they were ready to go forward and move to the community meeting. He took a quick vote from the group and the consensus was very positive for moving ahead.

Ron Cowan stated that the group always stayed true to the Guiding Principles, where teachers and staff are teaching kids and loving kids. He added that it won't be long and we will be walking on the new Sehome Plaza, and thanked everyone for their good work and their time.

The next step is for the committee to share the current proposal with the community at large. A letter is being sent to neighbors who live within a 1000' radius. A decision was made to expand the required 500' radius to make sure we included more of the community. We will share the committee's story, seeing what the community likes, concerns, and any suggestions they may have.

There will be paper and pencil for suggestions, or the community can provide electronic feedback.

Directly following the community meeting the advisory group will meet to discuss if they heard anything that would indicate the need for an additional committee meeting. Based on what was shared at the community meeting, and written and electronic feedback there will be a decision to proceed with a recommendation to Dr. Baker or meet for further discussion. Once the recommendation is prepared, it will be sent to members for committee review prior to submitting it to the superintendent.

Tanya Rowe stated that we will use all of our communication channels. If anyone would like flyers, Communications will provide them to committee members. Ron stated that they were also going to spend some lunch times with students to get their feedback.

Ron requested that all committee members attend the community meeting if possible.

At the conclusion of the meeting the group was asked to write down something that they were particularly excited about to share with Dykeman Architects.

Meeting adjourned 4:00p.m.